

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY,
FRIENDS, AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY.

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU
TODAY, AS YOUR MAYOR, TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS
OF OUR CITY AT THE MID-POINT OF MY CURRENT TERM
OF OFFICE. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO REFLECT
ON OUR PAST AND PREPARE FOR OUR FUTURE.
TONIGHT'S PROGRAM IS VERY SPECIAL AS IT MARKS
THE LAST SUCH EVENT IN THIS CENTURY. THE NEXT
TIME SUCH A FORUM WILL TAKE PLACE WILL BE THE
INAUGURAL CEREMONY IN JANUARY OF THE YEAR 2000.

**WE INTEND TO MAKE OUR MARCH INTO THE 21ST
CENTURY AN EXCEPTIONAL ONE. OUR WELL-PLANNED
MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION WILL INCLUDE SPECIAL
EVENTS ALL YEAR LONG CULMINATING WITH A GRAND
BALL ON DECEMBER 31, 1999. IT WILL BE AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CITIZENS TO ENJOY A
MEMORABLE YEAR AND AT THE SAME TIME START THE
21ST CENTURY ON A VERY POSITIVE NOTE.**

**AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT WILLIAM TOOMEY FOR
HIS OUTSTANDING WORK AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND
TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

JUDITH BUCKLEY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH
JUDY TO KEEP OUR CITY ON A STEADY COURSE AND
MAKE SURE WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE
CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

ONE YEAR AGO IN MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS, I
OUTLINED A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES FOR THIS TERM
OF OFFICE. THIS EVENING I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT ON
THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE AND LOOK AHEAD
TO 1999.

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT STRONGLY THAT FINANCIAL
STABILITY AND PRUDENT SPENDING OF PUBLIC FUNDS
IS CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

**I AM PLEASED TO REPORT OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IS
IN ORDER. ONCE AGAIN, MOODY'S INVESTMENT, INC.
HAS REAFFIRMED OUR AA1 BOND RATING WHICH KEEPS
US IN THE TOP TEN IN MASSACHUSETTS. WE WERE ABLE
TO GIVE OUR RESIDENTS REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS WITH
NO INCREASES OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND AS
PROMISED, WE HELD THE LINE ON WATER AND SEWER
BILLS DESPITE HAVING THE LARGEST ASSESSMENT IN
THE SOUTH ESSEX SEWERAGE DISTRICT. THE REAL
ESTATE BILLS ARE THE LOWEST IN ESSEX COUNTY, AND
ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS.**

I AM PROUD OF OUR RECORD OF MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE IN OUR CITY. I WANT TO THANK OUR OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL TEAM FOR THE WORK THEY DO UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF PATRICIA SCHAFFER.

THIS PAST YEAR WE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON OUR NEW \$13 MILLION WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL TAKE US FAR INTO THE NEXT CENTURY TO MEET OUR WATER NEEDS.

THREE WEEKS AGO WE CUT THE RIBBON TO OUR NEW \$5 MILLION PUBLIC SERVICES FACILITY. THIS

BUILDING WILL HOUSE ALL PUBLIC SERVICES

DIVISIONS AND PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY.

THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING WILL PROVIDE

EFFICIENT FACILITIES FOR OUR WORK FORCES FOR

YEARS TO COME. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW US TO

CONSOLIDATE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS INTO ONE

BUILDING AND PHASE OUT 5 OLDER BUILDINGS.

I WANT TO THANK RICHARD CARNEVALE, PETER

SHERRILL AND MICHAEL FRASCA FOR THEIR

OUTSTANDING WORK DURING THE PLANNING AND

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, AS WELL AS THE MANY

**EMPLOYEES WHOSE HELP AND INPUT MADE FOR THE
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT.**

**WE CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS WITH OUR GOLF
COURSE PLANS AND ANTICIPATE THAT THIS MONTH WE
WILL BE GOING OUT TO BID WITH CONTRUCTION
STARTING THIS SPRING. THIS WILL PROVIDE OUR
CITIZENS WITH A FIRST CLASS 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE.**

**FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN
BRINGING A FIRST CLASS ATHLETIC AND COMMUNITY
CENTER TO THE CITY. THIS PAST YEAR, THE YMCA
INVESTIGATED THE POTENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART "YMCA" FACILITY IN PEABODY.**

THEY SURVEYED PEABODY RESIDENTS, AND TALKED TO
COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS. THE RESULTS
WERE POSITIVE. THEY HAVE BEGUN ASSEMBLING A
GROUP OF BUSINESS LEADERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS
AND ELECTED OFFICIALS TO BRING THIS DREAM TO
REALITY. THEY ARE WORKING ON POSSIBLE
LOCATIONS AND HAVE IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE SOURCES
OF OVERALL FUNDING. IT IS MY SINCERE BELIEF THAT
THERE COULD BE A GROUNDBREAKING FOR THIS NEW
FLAGSHIP YMCA IN PEABODY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

A NEW YMCA FACILITY, ALONG WITH BROOKSBY
FARM, THE SKATING RINK, OUR PARKS SYSTEM, AND

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, PROVIDE OUR CITIZENS WITH
MANY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY WITH
THEIR FAMILIES.

IN MY LAST INAUGURAL ADDRESS, WE COMMITTED
\$300,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS THAT INCLUDED
UPGRADING AND NEW EQUIPMENT FOR TOT LOTS, AS
WELL AS IMPROVEMENTS TO BASEBALL AND SOCCER
FIELDS. WORK IS ONGOING AND IS ANTICIPATED TO BE
COMPLETED IN LATE SPRING.

I CONTINUE TO BE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING
QUALITY EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS. FINANCIAL
SUPPORT WILL BE PREDICATED ON WELL-DEVELOPED

PLANS AND PHASED IN PROGRAMS THAT ARE
MANAGEABLE AND MAKE SENSE. CREATING
UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS WILL LEAD TO FAILURE.
ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS WILL REQUIRE WORKING
TOGETHER AND A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO
ACHIEVING SOLUTIONS.

LAST MONTH I SUBMITTED A REQUEST TO THE CITY
COUNCIL FOR \$10 MILLION TO FUND SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENTS. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL OVER THE
LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO NEARLY \$30 MILLION
COMMITTED FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS. WE MUST
TAKE STEPS TO PROPERLY MANAGE AND MAXIMIZE OUR

**RESOURCES IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER TO INSURE
FUTURE NEEDS.**

**FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS IS IMPORTANT, BUT
MORE IMPORTANT ARE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
CURRICULUM THAT MEETS TODAY'S NEEDS IN
PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES.
WE MUST ALSO HAVE POLICIES THAT RESULT IN THE
HIRING OF THE MOST QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND
ADMINISTRATORS.**

**ATTEMPTS TO USE POLITICAL PRESSURE WILL NOT
WORK AND WILL LEAD TO FAILURE. I WILL NEVER
EXPEND PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE SAKE OF POLITICAL**

**EXPEDIENCY. THAT IS AN UNREASONABLE PRICE FOR
OUR CITIZENS TO PAY.**

**OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE OUR LIBRARIES IS
UNDER WAY. THIS PAST YEAR WE DESIGNED AND
AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY INCLUDING MASONRY
REPAIRS AND WINDOW REPLACEMENT. THIS WORK IS
PARTIALLY FUNDED WITH A GRANT FOR \$140,000 FROM
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, AS
WELL AS CITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$473,000. ALSO AT THE MAIN LIBRARY THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARCHIVE CENTER IS UNDER WAY**

WHICH WILL PRESERVE VALUABLE CITY DOCUMENTS
AND MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR REVIEW BY THE
PUBLIC. IN ADDITION, WE ARE IN THE DESIGN PHASE
FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY
OF WHICH \$100,000 IS COMMITTED.

THIS PAST YEAR WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
IN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BY
PROVIDING SEVERAL LOW INTEREST LOANS FROM OUR
REVOLVING LOAN FUND. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL
YEARS WE HAVE LOANED OVER \$6.5 MILLION TO LOCAL
BUSINESSES WHICH HAS LEVERAGED NEARLY \$67
MILLION IN PRIVATE CAPITAL. THIS HAS CREATED 822

JOBS AND RETAINED AN ADDITIONAL 355. I AM

PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL LOAN PAYMENTS TO

THE CITY ARE CURRENT.

IN 1998 WE BEGAN THE LAST PHASE OF UTILITY

IMPROVEMENTS ON JUBILEE DRIVE. A CONTRACT IN

THE AMOUNT OF \$800,000 WAS AWARDED FOR

INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE NEW HOTEL, A NEW OFFICE

BUILDING AND TWO OTHER UNDEVELOPED PROPERTIES

AT THE EASTERN END OF JUBILEE DRIVE. THIS WORK

WILL BE COMPLETED THIS SPRING. WE APPROVED

BUILDING ADDITIONS TO VORTEX, A. & A. INDUSTRIES

AND BOSTON ACOUSTICS. THE CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY

APPROVED THE SALE OF THE LAST REMAINING CITY
OWNED PARCEL ON JUBILEE DRIVE FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF AN OFFICE BUILDING THAT WILL ADD TO OUR
INDUSTRIAL BASE AND CREATE ADDITIONAL JOBS.

AFTER NEARLY SIX YEARS IN DEVELOPMENT, WE
RECENTLY CUT THE RIBBON FOR THE NEW STOP AND
SHOP SUPER STORE ON HOWLEY STREET. I BELIEVE WE
ALL REMEMBER WHAT WAS THEIR-- BURNED OUT
BUILDINGS AND A HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE. IT IS
CLEAR TO ME THAT THE RIGHT DECISION WAS MADE TO
PERSIST AGAINST THE OPPOSITION. THE SITE HAS BEEN
CLEANED UP, AND NEW SIDEWALKS, TRAFFIC

**SIGNALIZATION, A NEW STREET AND LANDSCAPING
HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. STOP & SHOP HAS PROVIDED
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HELP FUND THE RIVER WALK
AND THEIR ATTRACTIVE STORE HAS GENERATED 300
JOBS.**

**THE HOWLEY STREET UPGRADES WILL BE THE
CATALYST FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WALNUT
STREET AREA, WHICH WAS ONCE THE CITY'S
INDUSTRIAL CENTER WHEN WE WERE THE LEATHER
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. WE ARE ALREADY RECEIVING
REQUESTS AND HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON
EARLY PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR THAT AREA.**

IN 1998, WE BEGAN IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR
DOWNTOWN 2005 ACTION PLAN. IN PARTICULAR, WE
FOCUSED ON BRINGING VACANT OR TAX DELINQUENT
PROPERTIES BACK INTO PRODUCTIVE USE. WE APPLIED
FOR AND RECEIVED TWO EPA GRANTS FOR SITE
ASSESSMENTS OF TAX TITLE PROPERTY ON FOSTER
STREET. WE ALSO SOLICITED PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE
OF 2 BUILDINGS AT THE BLEACHERY COMPLEX ON
FOSTER STREET WHICH WAS TAKEN BY THE CITY FOR
BACK TAXES. I WILL BE REQUESTING CITY COUNCIL
APPROVAL TO FINALIZE THE SALE OF THE BUILDINGS TO
AN ESTABLISHED MACHINE COMPANY EARLY IN 1999.

OUR PLANNING AND VISION FOR OUR OLDER INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF WALNUT STREET AND FOSTER STREET ARE STARTING TO BECOME A REALITY -- A NEW STOP & SHOP, A NEW BANK AT CENTRAL AND WALNUT, THE REHABILITATION OF THE OLD STAHL FINISH BUILDING, AND THE PENDING SALE OF TWO BUILDINGS ON FOSTER STREET. THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER PROPOSALS IN THE WORKS FOR 1999, COUPLED WITH ENHANCING THE APPEARANCE OF THE AREA WITH THE PROPOSED RIVER WALK.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1998. SOME WILL CONTINUE IN 1999,

SUCH AS APPROVAL OF OUR 5-YEAR RECREATION AND
OPEN SPACE PLAN BY THE COMMONWEALTH. THIS PLAN
RECEIVED HIGH MARKS FOR EXCELLENCE. WE
CONTINUED TO WORK ON THE RECREATION AREA
AROUND SPRING POND, FOR WHICH WE RECEIVED A
GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT. THE TRAIL WAS CLEARED AND THE
BRIDGE WAS DESIGNED, AND WILL BE READY FOR
INSTALLATION IN THE SPRING OF 1999.

ON OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE CRYSTAL LAKE A FIRST
CLASS WATER BASED RECREATION FACILITY, WE HIRED
A LAKE MANAGEMENT FIRM TO PREPARE THE PERMIT

APPLICATION TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
FOR THE DREDGING OF THE LAKE.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A MASTER
PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY. THE PLAN,
KNOWN AS TRANSPORTATION 2020, WILL LOOK AT
CONGESTION AND SAFETY ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE
CITY. THIS \$100,000 STUDY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE
FIRM OF VANESE, HAGAN AND BRESLIN WILL MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND
IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES. THEY WILL BE
PRESENTING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS AT A PUBLIC

MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE VERY NEAR
FUTURE.

THIS PAST YEAR WE FINISHED THE WORK ON
DRISCOLL STREET AND OAKLAND STREET. THE WORK
ON WILSON SQUARE IS ONGOING. WE ALSO HAVE
COMPLETED 75% DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
INTERSECTIONS OF LOWELL AND PROSPECT, AND LYNN
AND COUNTY STREETS. THE STATE HAS APPROVED
THESE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING NEXT YEAR.

IN LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL I MENTIONED THAT I
HAD MADE TWO TRIPS TO BALTIMORE TO REVIEW AN
EXCITING CONCEPT KNOWN AS SENIOR CAMPUS LIVING

WHICH IS AMERICA'S LEADER IN DEVELOPING AND
MANAGING FULL SERVICE RETIREMENT CAMPUSES.
THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVED OUR PROPOSAL FOR A
ZONING AMENDMENT FOR A CONTINUING CARE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY. THIS NEW USE, WHICH
PREVIOUSLY WAS NOT COVERED IN OUR ZONING
ORDINANCE, ALLOWS SENIOR CAMPUS LIVING OF
BALTIMORE TO BUILD A \$200 MILLION SENIOR LIVING
PROJECT, BROOKSBY VILLAGE, WHICH WILL CREATE
OVER 1000 NEW JOBS. THEY OPENED A MARKETING
CENTER FOR THE PROJECT IN OCTOBER AND WILL BEGIN
CONSTRUCTION IN THE SPRING. THIS PROJECT HAS

MOVED FORWARD BECAUSE OF THE SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL, OUR BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS, OUR STATE AGENCIES AS WELL AS THE
TOWN OF DANVERS. IT TRULY WAS A TEAM EFFORT.

ISSUES OF REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND
COOPERATION ARE BEGINNING TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE
ABOLITION OF ESSEX COUNTY GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVE
JUNE 30, 1999. TO THAT END WE WON ELECTION TO THE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION WHICH
ALLOWS US TO WORK WITH THE OTHER SIX ELECTED
COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. WE ARE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOCATING \$40 MILLION EACH
YEAR IN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS TO THE 101
CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA
PLANNING COUNCIL REGION. WE ALSO HAVE A SEAT ON
THE MBTA ADVISORY BOARD AND CHAIR THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE THAT OVERSEES A \$923 MILLION BUDGET,
AND HELPS TO DIRECT OPERATIONS AND SERVICE
ISSUES FACING OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK.

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN OUR GOAL TO CREATE
A REGIONAL COMPACT BY IDENTIFYING ISSUES THAT
HAVE A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE. WE WILL BE MEETING

AGAIN THIS MONTH TO DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES. OUR BOUNDARIES SHOULD NOT BE BARRIERS TO CREATE PAROCHIALISM BUT RATHER OPEN ROADWAYS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.

WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN RECEIVED A SMALL CITIES GRANT OF \$600,000 ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE OUR HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VARIOUS SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

WE HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR ADMINISTERING THE NORTH SHORE HOME CONSORTIUM. THIS INVOLVES 25 MEMBER

COMMUNITIES BRINGING FEDERAL RESOURCES TO THIS
REGION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS NEARLY
\$13.8 MILLION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FOR VARIOUS
HOUSING PROGRAMS. THIS PAST YEAR WE RECEIVED
\$1.6 MILLION FOR THE MEMBER COMMUNITIES AND \$1.1
MILLION FOR HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS. THIS HAS
BEEN A WORTHY PROGRAM HELPING THOSE IN NEED. I
AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE JUST RECEIVED
APPROVAL FOR \$2 MILLION TO CONTINUE THE
PROGRAM. THIS IS THE LARGEST GRANT WE HAVE EVER
RECEIVED.

THIS PAST YEAR WE HAD SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS
AT BOTH BROOKSBY FARM AND THE SKATING RINK.
THEY WERE WELL ATTENDED AND PROVIDED EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CITIZENS. AT THE SAME
TIME, THESE PROGRAMS GENERATED REVENUES TO
MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND COVER EXPENSES.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE PUBLICITY
SURROUNDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS
OVERSHADOWED THE GOOD WORK DONE BY SO MANY
POLICE OFFICERS. THE CRIME RATE IS DOWN
DRAMATICALLY AND NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING AND
PROBLEM SOLVING CENTERS ARE WORKING WELL. NOW

THAT THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION APPEARS TO BE
WINDING DOWN, WE ARE REVIEWING ALL MATTERS
RELATED TO INFORMATION DISCLOSED. WE INTEND TO
TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BRING THIS TO AN
APPROPRIATE CONCLUSION. IT IS TIME TO MOVE
FORWARD AND TO PUT PAST DIFFERENCES BEHIND US.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW UNION
PRESIDENT, MANNY COSTA, TO CREATE A POSITIVE
DIALOGUE AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
MANAGEMENT AND LABOR.

THIS PAST YEAR MUCH WAS ACCOMPLISHED. IT
TOOK A LOT OF HARD WORK FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF

**PEOPLE AND I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR THEIR
SUPPORT. THE YEAR AHEAD WILL BE MORE ACTIVE AND
WILL REQUIRE A LOT OF HARD WORK AND
COOPERATION. OUR TASKS INCLUDE:**

- SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS**
- A GOLF COURSE**
- OVERSEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROOKSBY
VILLAGE**
- CRYSTAL LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
- CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIVER WALK**
- THE BIKEWAY**
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- **REGIONALIZATION**

**WITH THE RECENTLY APPROVED \$5 MILLION BOND
ISSUE WE WILL BE PURCHASING NEW POLICE, FIRE AND
PUBLIC SERVICE EQUIPMENT. WE WILL BE WORKING ON
DRAINAGE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**1999 WILL SEE THE START OF DEVELOPING A NEW
MASTER PLAN FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS. IT WILL BE A
GUIDE AND VALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR
FUTURE PLANNING. THE PLAN IS A PREREQUISITE TO
RECEIVING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS. WE WILL ALSO BE
COMPLETING AND IMPLEMENTING OUR**

TRANSPORTATION PLAN. MANAGING OUR FINANCES
WILL CONTINUE TO BE A TOP PRIORITY TO ASSURE
FISCAL STABILITY. WE WILL WORK TO COMPLETE OUR
LIBRARY PROJECTS THIS YEAR. WE WILL PROVIDE
SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO ALLOW PUBLIC SERVICES TO
CONTINUE OUR ROAD AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR WILL BE AN EXCITING YEAR FOR OUR
CITIZENS WITH PLANS TO DO A YEAR LONG
CELEBRATION USHERING IN THE 21ST CENTURY. WE
HAVE FORMED NEARLY 20 COMMITTEES WHO ARE
PLANNING VARIOUS EVENTS; FROM A CRYSTAL BALL TO

A GRAND BALL, FROM CONCERTS TO A SPECTACULAR
PARADE, FROM FESTIVALS TO A BROOKSBY FARM EVENT,
AND SO MUCH MORE. THESE EVENTS WILL MAKE 1999 A
MEMORABLE YEAR FOR YOUNG AND OLD. IT WILL
BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER AND CREATE A SPIRIT THAT
MAKES PEOPLE FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEIR CITY. WE WILL
BE LOOKING FOR SUPPORT OF THESE PROGRAMS
THROUGH COMMUNITY EFFORTS. I WANT TO THANK THE
MANY GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY STEPPED
FORWARD TO HELP US.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES, TOO NUMEROUS
TO MENTION. IT IS SAFE TO SAY WE HAVE OUR WORK

CUT OUT FOR US. I AM CONFIDENT THAT TOGETHER WE
SHALL MEET THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US.

THIS YEAR I WILL BE STARTING MY 21ST YEAR AS
YOUR MAYOR. TOGETHER WE HAVE WORKED OUR WAY
THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES SUCH AS THE LEGISLATION
CREATING THE 4% SPENDING CAP, PROPOSITION 2-1/2,
AND THE DIFFICULT ECONOMY OF THE EARLY NINETIES.
WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO MAKE PEABODY A SPECIAL
PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, A CITY THAT IS WELL
RESPECTED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

I WANT TO THANK THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE
GIVEN ME SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. FROM TIME

TO TIME LEADERSHIP CAN BE A LONELY PLACE,
PARTICULARLY WITH SOME OF THE CHANGING
DYNAMICS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
AND ALSO WHEN DIFFICULT AND UNPOPULAR
DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU
THAT I WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM DOING WHAT I
BELIEVE IS RIGHT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR
CITIZENS, NOR WILL I COMPROMISE MY PRINCIPALS.

I STAND BEFORE YOU WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE
KNOWING WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT COMMANDS
RESPECT, WHERE HOUSING VALUES ARE INCREASING,
WHERE SERVICES ARE WELL DELIVERED, WHERE PEOPLE

CAN AFFORD TO LIVE, AND WHERE MUTUAL RESPECT IS
IMPORTANT. PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME, "WHAT IS YOUR
MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT?" I HAVE ALWAYS
ANSWERED IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN
PHYSICALLY SEE, BUT RATHER IT IS ATTITUDE. SIMPLY
PUT, HAVE WE MADE PEOPLE FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEIR
COMMUNITY? DO THEY TAKE PRIDE IN LIVING HERE?
HAS THEIR GOVERNMENT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THEIR
NEEDS? I MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR HISTORY TO GIVE ME
THE ANSWER TO WHETHER WE WERE SUCCESSFUL, BUT
IN THE MEANTIME I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE MY

NUMBER ONE GOAL THE BUILDING OF COMMUNITY AND
THE RESTORATION OF PUBLIC TRUST.

I BELIEVE THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PREVENT US
FROM REACHING GREATER HEIGHTS IS OUR INABILITY
TO GOVERN IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITIZENS.

IF ONLY THE MOST VOCAL ARE HEARD, IF WE SAY NO TO
SOLUTIONS WITHOUT OFFERING ALTERNATIVES, IF WE
LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT WE REPRESENT NEARLY 50,000
PEOPLE AND WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THEIR
INTERESTS, OR WE ALLOW PERSONAL FEELINGS TO
CLOUD SOUND JUDGEMENT, THEN THE END RESULT WILL
BE FAILURE. AS ELECTED OFFICIALS, WE MUST ASK

OURSELVES IN WHICH WAY CAN I BETTER SERVE MY
COMMUNITY. IF WE ARE TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT
DOING A BETTER JOB AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR
CITY, THEN I BELIEVE THERE IS MORE THAT BRINGS US
TOGETHER THAN DIVIDES US AS A GOVERNMENT.

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO I MADE A COMMITMENT
TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY TO BRING STRONG
LEADERSHIP TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND TO WORK
TIRELESSLY TO MAKE PEABODY A BETTER PLACE IN
WHICH TO LIVE. THIS EVENING I RENEW THAT PLEDGE
AND ASK THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AS WELL
AS OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR

**HELP, YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR GUIDANCE AND YOUR
PRAYERS.**

**IN CLOSING, I DEDICATE TONIGHT'S MID-TERM
INAUGURAL TO MY FAMILY WHO HAVE BEEN AT MY SIDE
DURING BOTH GOOD AND BAD TIMES, WHO HAVE
WORKED IN THE POLITICAL TRENCHES, WHO HAVE PUT
UP WITH SOME DIFFICULT SITUATIONS FOR NEARLY 30
YEARS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR THEIR SUPPORT
AND THEIR LOVE.**

GOD BLESS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

